

Bend Sept. 2021

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Sept. 26, Sunday

Leave home 8:45, 57° overcast

169 south

Roosevelt uk by road

Ohanepecosh VC lunch & short walk

Hiway 12 east, lake very low, kayakers on Tieton
+/- 60° & mostly sunny

Vine maple fall color

Bypass Yakima over hill

97 south sumac fall color crimson

rabbitbrush lemon yellow blooms along road

142 thru Klickitat - beautiful windy road
drops down to river. 14 west to Hood River.

Nice rest area on river would make
great overnight stop if allowed.

Arrive at Chris Shaw/Sandy Clark's condo in
Hood River about 4:45, 528 E. Third St.

They're on the top floor of a 4-plex, with a
view of the Columbia River. It's filled with
lovely art & objets from their travels. Across
the street is a trailhead. A map shows
stairs connecting all over town. They're
on a hill above town, on a quiet street.
There are many high end homes with
views, and I suspect real estate values
have skyrocketed here.

Cooked on their patio & enjoyed the
view while we ate. Tortillas, refries, cheese,
fish patties, sour cream, salsa. A Polish
chocolate prune for dessert.

I went for a short walk after dinner. It's in the mid-70s! Pouring rain in Kirkland today, warm & sunny here.

We love the van! I made lunch standing up inside the van.* So far no design issues, and nothing rattles when we drive. (*no more squatting in the back!)

As we often do our first night on the road, we slept early and long! It rained off & on all night. lol°

Monday Sept. 27

Walked Indian Creek trail, which starts across the street from Chris & Sandy's. Gentle uphill, wide & graveled, in deciduous forest, views down to the river. Several young women jogging with dogs. Up stairs to a charming hilltop neighborhood with sidewalks, craftsman-style bungalows, and vegetable gardens. Loop back to condo on streets & stairs. Maybe 45 min. total. Streets & sidewalks covered in acorns that crunch underfoot. Light rain. The town has a nice "outdoorsy people" vibe.

Head south at 9:40 am, 35 south through cool rainy forest (low 46°), 26 east with brilliant swaths of red & gold vine maple. Lunch at Warm Springs State Park boat launch on Deschutes River. Raining.

Madras to Burns. Narrows RV Park near Matheur Wildlife Refuge. Closed on Mondays so we are parked in large gravel lot. Toilets are locked. It's very windy, but warm. 75° today in the high desert. No rain, but some clouds and dusty air. It was a long drive to come here, but we didn't want to camp in the rain. Plus we love Matheur. Crystal Gaze Hot Springs is now \$35 to dry camp, so we decided not to go there.

Meze dinner: rye bread, cheese, tzatziki, hummus, vegies, apple. Wind rocks the van. Dark at 7. Too windy to be outside, so reading, journaling, Netflix, and sleep early.

Woken by the campground owners knocking on the van. We explained why we were there, and they were very nice. They said if they hadn't arrived by the time we left in the morning, we could pay on the way back from the refuge.

Tuesday Sept. 28

35° this morning, 41° inside the van! It rained hard in the night, washing yesterday's dust out of the air. Lots of blue sky. Light beginning at 6:30.
- Yesterday I forgot to attach one of the shelf bungees and the pantry crate & stove flew out when we went around

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a corner, scaring the crap out of me. No damage except a divot in the plywood on the table riser - oh well, as ~~the~~ Buddhism reminds us, everything is already broken.

Got to Malheur Wildlife Refuge a little before 8. The bathrooms were open + heated! The pond was very low. Talked to a nice young woman in the nature center who said all the cranes were up by Burns and would hide away somewhere by 10 or 11 am. Good to know for future reference. She said they sometimes hang out by crop sprinklers (called "pivots") in the afternoon.

The beguilingly pungent smell of sage filled the air. The headquarters is like an oasis, with green lawns, shrubs, trees, birds drawn to feeders, and rabbits. Buildings have multi-colored terracotta tile roofs. Two short strolls: to the pond, and up to a viewpoint of Lake Malheur in the distance.

Drove the north portion of the Center Patrol road. Rough washboard and no water in the ditches. Only saw a mule deer, marsh hawk, accipiter. It was a good vibration test for the van! It was a bumpy and somewhat tedious drive, not really worth doing if there's no water in the ditches (there was water in the Blitzen River, but no bird life.)

But the desert colors were beautiful: sage green, copper gold, cloud shadows on black volcanic buttes & mesas. Steens Mountain was mostly hidden by clouds, a dusting of snow visible on its lower flanks.

At the paved crossing we headed west to 205, stopping at Buena Vista Overlook. Grant napped at the overlook (gorgeous view) while I took the short trail down & back up.

Stopped at the RV Park to pay. Sign on door said masks required, but no one inside was wearing one. Lunch at park in Burns, gas up, head for Bend. Stopped at the BLM Wild Horse Corrals north of Burns. A short "auto tour" lets you drive around the corrals. Many horses of all colors, including tiny foals. They are skittish around cars & people. Two cowboys herding horses. Act of Congress requires management & protection of wild horses. Extra horses are captured & put up for adoption.

Arrived at AirBnB in Bend about 4 pm.

David, Annie, Ava, & Mark are renting a cute little house for a week. Rest area at mile 114 north of Burns would be a good sleep spot if needed. Rain squalls on the way to Bend. Ravens on fenceposts.

Walk with David around Drake Park, just two blocks away. Babysit Ava while David, Annie, ~~Ava~~ mark go to dinner.

Wednesday Sept. 29

36° out, 41° in van. Grant & I walked around the cute old downtown, on the river with thriving shops & restaurants. Then grocery shopping. Annie, Ava, and I spent three hours at the High Desert Museum, many great animals (otters, fox, raptors, reptiles, etc.), and indoor & outdoor displays of local history, clothing, buildings. Well done & highly recommended.

Grant made pork tenderloin, baked potatoes, and broccoli for dinner.

Thurs Sept 30

Up at 7. 43° out, 45° in. Feels much warmer than yesterday. Nice morning visit with David & Mark. On the road by 9. Beautiful blue sky day, clear as a bell, gorgeous views of The Sisters & Mt. Jefferson, ~~its~~ its cone-shaped flanks streaked with snow, a wisp of cloud trailing from its summit like chimney smoke, Mt. Hood wreathed in swirls of cloud. It starts to rain in Gresham. Long stop in Woodland for Grant to do a Craigslip swap...

Heavy rain for a while then dry the rest of the way home. Arrive 4:10.